

Sudan desert locust update **1-10 August, 2005**

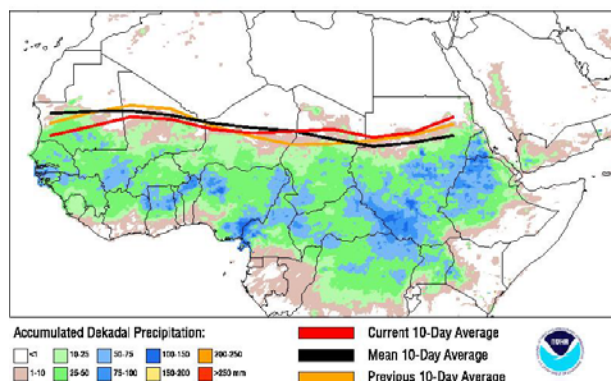
Summary:

The desert locust situation in western Sudan continued to deteriorate. Immature adults and hoppers were detected on a total of 4,163 ha in the Darfur states during ground surveys carried out in accessible areas. Surveys were also carried out in North Kordofan. Control operations treated 2,005 ha in Western and Northern Darfur and similar operations will soon commence in accessible areas in South Darfur. PPD/Sudan has deployed two teams to North Kordofan and River Nile States to conduct survey operations. Additional teams will be dispatched soon to Tokar in the Red Sea region.

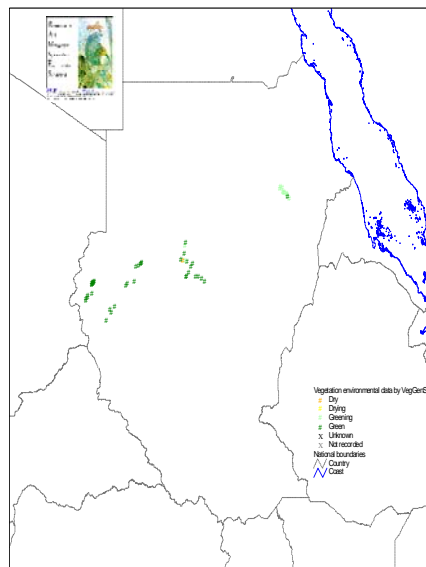
Meteorological and ecological conditions

The Sahel section of the ITCZ over Sudan and the Horn remained north of the median position in the third dekad of July and has since been retreating south over Karima and Abu hamad in the Northern State and north of Greater Kordofan and Greater Darfur States. Low to medium speed southerly and southwesterly winds bellowing to the east and north east prevailed during the reporting period. Moderate to heavy rains were being recorded from 26th July to 5th August in several places in Northern, Southern and Western Darfur, Northern Kordofan, River Nile and other summer breeding areas.

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
July 2005 Dekad 3



As a result, vegetation is green and abundant in most of the outbreak areas and ecological conditions continued to improve and will likely remain so over the coming weeks (see a map from PPD/Sudan below; map stretchable).



Locust situation

High and medium density 2nd to 4th instar hoppers and gregarious groups of immature adults were detected during surveys carried out in Western and Northern Darfur states. 2nd, 3rd and 4th instar hoppers and bands were sighted on 3,950 ha during surveys carried out in secure areas in Northern Darfur where control operations treated some 1,940 ha. 4th instar hoppers and immature adults were detected on some 165 ha in Western Darfur and controlled. 1st instar hopper groups with medium to high densities were detected on some 400 ha during the surveys carried out around Nyala, southern Darfur. Surveys were also carried out on some 1,200 ha in several locations in Northern Kordofan, but no locusts were detected. No locusts were seen on 1,400 ha surveyed in River Nile State during the first dekad of August.

Forecast

Due to continued rainfall in the western and northwestern parts of the country and a few places in the Red Sea coast and the interior

Sudan Locust Update

of the country, it is expected that favorable conditions will persist over the coming weeks. As a result, small swarms will likely develop in Northern and Western Darfur States over the coming weeks. These swarms will possibly move eastwards through North Kordofan into River Nile, Kassala and the summer breeding areas in the Red Sea coast. Escapee swarms from the Red Sea coasts in Eritrea could possibly reach Tokar Delta by the end of the second dekad of August.

It is important that proactive interventions and vigilant survey and monitoring are implemented to the extent possible to avert any major outbreak resulting in and /from the western region.

Resources

PPD/Sudan has inventoried resources to respond to the current locust situation to the extent possible. It has also been exploring possibilities to use the UN or other facilities to conduct survey operations in inaccessible but critical areas.

Note on the DL situation in neighboring countries and others

Active survey and control operations were carried out in **Chad**. Assistance is being provided by FAO experts and consultants.

According to a report from PPD/**Eritrea**, hoppers and immature and mature adult locusts were detected on some 80,000 ha scattered over several locations along the Red Sea coast, in Mahmimet and Bada north and south of Massawa, respectively. Control operations were carried out by ground means and some 8,935 ha were treated. Survey and monitoring are underway to the extent possible. Lack of survey, communication as well as spray equipment, vehicles, pesticides, and camping gear has been mentioned in the report. FAO has deployed a locust expert to assess the situation and discuss strategies with the national plant protection staff. The Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-ES) is deploying an aircraft to assist survey and control operations.

August 10, 2005

No major locust activities were reported in **Ethiopia** during this dekad. Survey and monitoring operations are underway.

It is worth mentioning that AELGA, in collaboration with the national PPDs, DLCO-EA, FAO and others trained large cadres of crop protection officers, field agents and lead farmers in a number of countries, including Eritrea and Ethiopia. These cadres continue to play a central role in DL survey, monitoring and preventive control interventions in their respective countries.

The desert locust situation in **Niger** remained relatively calm and no major activities were observed during the reporting period in the areas that have been surveyed by ground and aerial means. Only a few individuals were observed in the pastoral zones. Intensive survey operations are being implemented in all the potential outbreak areas where favorable breeding conditions exist.

Despite the presence of favorable conditions in the outbreak and breeding areas, no locusts were observed in **Mauritania** or **Senegal** during the first Dekad of August where intensive survey and monitoring are underway.

No reports were received from **Mali** where the presence of some locusts is likely.

AELGA will continue monitoring the situation and issue updates and recommendations as necessary.

U:\..ybelayne/sitrep2005/SudanLocustUpdate.August .10.05